

# ANTIQUARIAN NOTES:

MAINLY OF MEN AND MATTERS

CONNECTED WITH THE

## CHURCHES

ON THE ROLL OF THE

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

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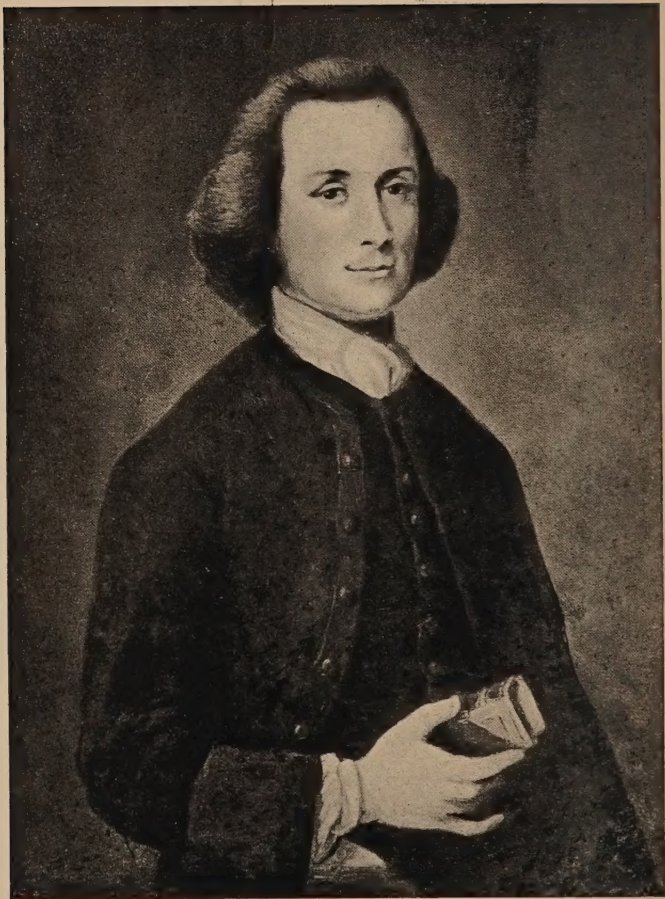
PART 28.

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JOSEPH PRIESTLEY.

ÆTAT. 30.



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No. 28.

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## Joseph Priestley.

This portrait is the earliest and most pleasing of him. It was executed when he was thirty years old, probably in 1761, the year in which he left Nantwich for the Warrington Academy. In 1860, Messrs. Caldesi, Blandford & Co., of Pall Mall, secured a photograph of the original, "formerly in the possession of William Hudson, Esqre, Gildersome, near Leeds," and from the large copy given by that firm to the late Charles Richard Weld, Assistant Secretary and Librarian of the Royal Society, this negative has been taken. Weld—who was younger grandson of the Rev. Isaac Weld, D.D., of Dublin, and nephew of the late Com. Geo. Eyre Powell, R.N., of Colyton—included in his "History of the Royal Society" certain previously inedited letters from Dr. Priestley, amongst them the one addressed to Sir Joseph Banks from Leeds on the 10th December, 1771, on the occasion of the rejection, on account of his religious opinions, of Priestley as astronomer to accompany the Government expedition of discovery, under

Captain Cook. Sir Joseph Banks had invited Priestley to join the expedition, proposing advantageous terms, including a provision for his family. Priestley consented to go, but was objected to by certain members of the Board of Longitude, and consequently lost the appointment. Priestley was touched to the quick; he writes,—*Now what I am, and what they are, with respect to religion, might easily have been known before the thing was proposed to me at all. Besides, I thought that this had been a business of philosophy, and not of divinity.*

Two years later, Priestley was awarded the Copley Medal. Sir John Pringle, in handing it to him, "in the name and by the authority of the Royal Society," said it was "the palm and laurel of this community" presented to him, "as a faithful and unfading testimonial of their regard, and of the just sense they have of your merit, and of the persevering industry with which you have promoted the views and thereby the honour of the Society."

The portrait, which Weld so highly valued, is now in the Editor's possession. It is to be regretted that the centennial reprint of the "Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestley," 1904, recently edited by the Rev. F. K. Freeston, does not include this amongst the eight presentations given in it of the theologian and man of science.

## The Peak Chapels.

BAGSHAWE ; CLEGG ; HARRISON.

When the Rev. James Clegg settled as minister at Malcof, no register was kept there. Sometime afterwards he set himself to remedy this deficiency. He writes :—

*No register was kept while the congregation continued at Malcof, or many years after. Since it was removed to Chinley, no account was taken of births and burials ; but as many as can be recorded with certainty are now inserted in their proper places.*

The precious vellum-backed book, which Clegg instituted, and used until his death in 1755, is now before me, and from its pages are extracted these particulars. His writing is neat and regular. He thus begins the record :—

*1702. In the beginning of the year 1702, The Reverend Mr. William Bagshawe of fford departed this life, his last sermon was on 22nd March, 1701/2, from Rom. 8. 31. On Wednesday, 1st April, he lay in a slumber, towards night he called to have an hymn sung, and after a short prayer, to which he added 'Amen,' he fell into a slumber, and seemed to breath without difficulty ; till, on a sudden, he gave a gasp or two, and so quietly slept in Jesus, having lived an eminently holy*

*and useful life. He had the favour of an easy death. He was buried at Chappel-le-ffrith, and his funeral sermon was preached by Mr. John Ashe, from Hebrews 13. 7; and afterwards printed with his life and character.*

Then he goes on to tell about his own settlement:—

*1702. In July Mr. James Clegg (born at Shawfield, in ye parish of Roachdale, 20th Oct., 1679, and educated with the Rev. Mr. Richd ffrankland at Rathmel in Yorkshire, afterwards with the Rev. Mr. Chorlton, of Manchester) was call'd unanimously by the congregation to succeed him, and came to live there 6th Augt. He boarded with Mr. Samuel Bagshawe at fford, assisted in educating his sons, and preach'd at Malcof, near to the fford.*

*1703. Mr. Clegg was ordain'd to the office and work of the ministry at Malcof, 25th Aug., 1703, by the Rev. Mr. Robert Fern of Wirksworth, Mr. Gamaliel Jones of Marple in Cheshire, Mr. Ferdinando Shawe M.A. of Derby, Mr. John Holland of Walton, Mr. John Ashe of Ashford, and Mr. George Lowe of Norton. Mr. Jones preach'd, and Mr. Fern gave ye exhortation.*

*1706/7. Mr. Samuel Bagshawe of Ford departed this life 8th Dec., on the Lord's Day at night, this was a sudden and sad breach, his funeral sermon was preach'd at Malcof by Mr. Clegg, Dec. 18th.*

*1709/10. In March, about the 8th or 9th day, Mr. Henry Kyrk of Martintide, an eminently holy Christian,*



*departed this life very suddenly, his funeral sermon was preach'd at Malcof 12th Mar. by J. Clegg, from Genes. v: 24.*

He devotes two pages to the following entries:—

*Note. These names following were Dr. Clegg's children, who preach'd at Chinley Chappel, and succeeded the Rev. Mr. Willm Bagshawe.*

*James, s. James Clegg, min. at Malcoff, b. 5 Sep., bap. by Mr. Ashe at Malcoff, 9th Sep., 1705.*

*Ann, dau., b. at fford 4 March, and bap. there by Mr. Ashe, 10th March, 1707/8.*

*Margaret, dau., b. at Malcoff, 15 July, and bap. there by Mr. John Ashe, 19th July, 1711. She d. 26th Aug., 1723.*

*John, s., b. at Malcoff, 24 March, bap. there by Mr. Ashe 7th Ap., 1713.*

*Joseph, s., b. at Stoddard Hall, on 10 Oct., and bap. there by Mr. Ashe, 17 Oct., 1716.*

*Sarah, dau., at — do. — Whitsunday, 1 June, and bap. there by Mr. Ashe, 11 June, 1718.*

*Ebenezer, s., b. at — do. — 20 Dec., bap. there by Mr. Ashe 28 Dec., 1719. He d. 13 March, 1719/20.*

*Elizabeth, dau., b. — „ — 24 June, bap. there by Mr. Ashe 17 July, 1721. D. 27 Jan., 1793, aged 72.\**

*Benjamin, s., b. — „ — 19 April, being Lord's Day, bap. there 6th May, 1724, by Mr. Ashe.*

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\* This in a somewhat illiterate handwriting.

The mother of these nine children was Anne (d. 30th Jan., 174 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), dau. of Joseph Champion, of Edale. Clegg's second wife, to whom he was married on the 22nd August, 1744, was Sarah, widow of Thomas Eyre, of Stockport, and sister to the Rev. John Jones, of Marple. She died on the 24th November, 1748. Clegg became M.D. (*Aberdeen*), October, 1729.

Interspersed between his baptismal entries are occasional notes, which throw some light upon his ways and customs in the ministry:—

*May 19th, 1728. Mr. Clegg begun to catechise about 40 children, and 16 youths, the text was 'Suffer little children.'*

*February 5th, 1747. After He and his wife had confess'd their sin of fornication, and express'd their repentance for it before some witnesses, I baptized the child of Henry Hall and my old servant call'd Ann.*

Clegg's death and his successor's settlement are chronicled by the Rev. William Harrison, upon whom fell the choice of the congregation:—

*1755. On 5th Aug., 1755, Dr. Clegg, min. at Chinley Chappel, in the High Peak in Derbyshire, departed this life about two of clock in the afternoon: he succeeded in the ministry the Rev. Mr. Wm. Bagshawe, commonly call'd the Apostle in the Peak, a humble and eminent Xn min. of the Gospel, to wh. congregation gathered by Mr. Bagshawe, Dr. Clegg, min. of the*

*Gospel, preached for upwards of 50 years. He was a painful, judicious, and affecting preacher. To him I, William Harrison, who preached at Stand in Pilkington in the parish of Prestwich and co. of Lancaster, near 7 year, and from there removed to Buxton in the par. of Bakewell, and co. of Derby, where I preached near 20 years, succeeded as Min. at Chinley Chappel aforesaid, to which place and to the Society of Protestant Dissenters I was soon after called, as witness my hand.*

*WM. HARRISON.*

Following Clegg's example, Harrison enters the births of his children, and this list enables us to complete the particulars of his family given in *Memorials of Stand Chapel*, R. Travers Herford, 1893, p. 31; and in the *Record of the Provincial Assembly*, 1896, p. 170.

*Children of Wm. and Ann Harrison, now of Stoddard, in the par. of Chappel-le-Frith.*

*Cuthbert, first born, b. Coneygreave, in Radcliffe par., Lanc., 27 Aug., old stile, 1733, bap. by Mr. Braddock, min. in Bury, abt. a month afterward.*

*Ann, first dau., b. at the house belonging to Mr. Jonathan Lees, in Park Lane, near Stand, in Pilkington, 27th April, old stile, 1735, bap. by Mr. Dobson, Min. at Cockey Chappel.*

*Richard, b. at Buxton, 19th July, old stile, 1737, bap. by Dr. Clegg, min. Chinley, on 12th Aug. following.*

*William*, b. 7 April, old stile, 1739; bap. by Dr. Clegg, 1st May following; and d. 7th June, 1742, bur. at Chelmerton Meeting-house, in the par. of Bakewell.

*Cooper*, b. 5th June, old stile, 1741, bap. by Dr. Clegg, 15 June following.

*Joseph*, b. 26 Aug., old stile, 1744, bap. by me, Wm. Harrison, then min. in Buxton, that same night, d. 28th same month, bur. at the new meeting-house in Chelmerton, 30th Aug., 1744.

*William*, b. 5th Feb., new stile, 1745/6, bap. by Mr. Worthington, min. at Dean Row, on 13th March following; d. 5th Nov., 1756, and was bur. at Chinley Chappel, 8th Nov. following, aged 10 years, 37 weeks, and 4 days.

*Ralph*, b. 30 Aug., 1748, bap. by me, Wm. Harrison, on 12th Sep. following.†

*Sarah*, dau., b. 24 Sep., 1751, bap. by Dr. Clegg, 22nd Oct.

*John*, s., b. 11 Aug., 1755, bap. by Dr. Eaton, min. in Nottingham, in my house in Buxton, on 18th Sept.

*Note.* All the above children of Wm. and Ann Harrison, were b. at the house belonging to the meeting-

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† Minister of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, 29th Dec., 1771, to 24th Nov., 1810; composer of the hymn tune "Warrington," which was sung by those present at the public meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Manchester, on the 25th June, 1894, to commemorate the bicentenary of the Chapel. His son, William (b. 1779, d. 1859), was minister of Blackley Chapel, 1803—1853 (?). His great grandson is Frederick Angier Harrison, Esq.



*house in Buxton, excepting Cuthbert and Ann, and these are the true dates of their births and baptisms, as witness my hand this 3d Sept., 1759.*

*Wm. Harrison,*

*Min. at Chinley Chappel.*

Two of his grandchildren are also entered :—

*Ann, dau. Cooper and Rachel (dau. John Hattersley) Harrison, b. in Holborn Bridge, in parish of St. Andrews, co. Middlesex, 5 July, 1769.*

*William, s. — do. —, b. in Little Bell Alley, Coleman Street, par. St. Stephen, 3 Sept., 1773.*

After 483 entries of baptisms at his hands he writes :—

*Note. 11th Feb., 1782. That notice was this day for the people at Chinley Chappel to provide for themselves a stated minister to officiate at Chinley Chappel, I, Wm. Harrison, minister at the place, intending to decline public service there.*

A year afterwards he died, and his successor writes :—

*On Thursday, 27th March, 1783, the Rev. Mr. Wm. Harrison, Min. of Chindley Chapel, in the High Peak in Derbyshire, departed this life, about 8 o'clock at night. He was bur. at Chindley Chapel on Monday, the 31st, at 10 o'clock in the Morning, aged 75, by me, W. Sutcliff.*

*He succeeded Dr. Clegg at Chindley Chapel sometime in Dec., 1755, and resigned his office as Min. in Feb. or March, 1782, I was chose in to succeed him as*

*Min. and paster of Chinley Chapel in June following.  
W. Sutcliff.*

At the end of the register is a copy of Wm. Bagshawe's will, made on the 15th October, 1701. In it he names his wife, Agnes; grandsons, William, Samuel, John, Nathaniel, and Septimus; nieces, Jane and Jone Longden; and *Jeremiah, mine antient servant.*

In February, 1789, *this book was rebaired, and fresh paper put in it.*

The *fresh paper* consists of four pages, inserted at the beginning, before the original ones which open with Clegg's entries. Particulars are recorded on them of the building of Chinley Parsonage, and other matters, *all the writings belonging to Chinley Chapel being in the hands of Mr. Emanuel Moult, at Nase in Chinley.*

When the Rev. Ebenezer Glossop settled as minister at Chinley, at the beginning of the year 1806, he received this interesting book from the hands of the Rev. Wm. Bennett, a retired minister, who had carefully guarded it after Sutcliff's death. Glossop kept it, and entered in it until 1813. On the 26th December, 1836, he deposited it with the Registration Commissioners, and, in October, 1904, by the kind offices of the Registrar-General, William Cospatriek Dunbar, Esq., C.B., these extracts have been made from it by

GEO. EYRE EVANS.

## London: Carter Lane Chapel.

(Concluded from p. 76).

Register No. ii. covers the period from 13th November, 1760, to 7th August, 1811, and contains entries of

*Children baptized by Edw. Pickard, 1760—1778,*

also of those baptized

*by me, Thos Tayler, 1778—1811.*

These two entries are of interest:—

*Elizabeth, dau. Rev. Sam. Palmer, Hackney, b. 29th Feb., 1780.*

*27th January, 1791. Dr. Price bap. my s. Thomas.*

From beginning to end these two books are full of valuable facts and data in the life of the congregation, and would well repay anyone who would transcribe them, and commit their contents to the safe custody of print.

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## Ottery St. Mary.

The names are known of six students at the Ottery Academy, under the Rev. John Lavington (d. 1764). To these may be added the two alluded to by Lavington in his entries in the Meeting-house register, viz.:—

69. *Buried Mr. Henry Noble, my pupil from Cumberland, 25th Jan., 1757.*

93. *Buried Mr. Joseph Thistle (my pupil), 10th May, 1760.*

This book, which contains Lavington's

*Register of Children belonging to the Presbyterian Congregation in Ottery St. Mary, since 25th March, 1746,*

fortunately escaped the great fire which occurred in this town about the year 1780, *in which*, wrote the Rev. John Bounsall on the 21st December, 1836, *it is reported and believed that some older registers were then burnt in the house of the minister.* The congregation was founded about the year 1700.

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## Register of the Octagon Chapel, Liverpool, 1762—1780.

*(Continued from p. 104).*

1771.

Nathaniel Basnett Cropper, s. Thomas and Sarah  
Cropper,

b. 5 Dec., bap. 31 Dec. by

Nicholas Clayton.

witness, Thomas Cropper.

*(To be continued).*





